



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

**CR-101 (June 2004)**

(Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Department of Agriculture

**Subject of possible rule making:** The Department of Agriculture proposes to 1) update specific areas of the Washington Grade Standards for consistency and continuity to changes in the U.S. Apple Grades; and 2) exclude "smooth net-like russet" as a defect for Fuji apples in the Washington Grade Standard.

**Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:** 15.17 RCW Standards of Grades and Packs and 34.05 RCW Administrative Procedures Act.

**Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:** These rules are necessary in order to bring the Washington State Grade Standards equal to or higher than the existing United States Grading Standards. In addition, the industry has determined that smooth net-like russetting is indicative of the fuji variety and should not be considered as a defect.

**Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:**

None

**Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**

☐ Negotiated rule making

☐ Pilot rule making

☐ Agency study

☒ Other (describe) In response to a request from the Washington State Horticultural Association (WSHA), Grade and Pack Committee, WSDA staff will develop the rule proposal. In turn, industry representatives and the WSHA Grade and Pack Committee will review and comment on the proposed rule amendments. Interested Parties can participate in the public hearing/public comment process, the dates of which will be Announced with the Department files the rule proposal with the Code Reviser.

**How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:**

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

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DATE

January 9, 2006

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SIGNATURE

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Assistant Director, Commodity Inspection Division

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